

REMARKS

The present application included claims 1-22. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 11, and 17 have been amended as set forth above, while new claims 23 and 24 have been added. Claims 9 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. **No fee is believed due with respect to new claims 23 and 24 because these claims take the places of canceled claims 9 and 19.** The Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-22 define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,622,174 ("Yamazaki") in view of United States Patent No. 6,017,309 ("Washburn") and United States Patent No. 6,176,828 ("Becker"). Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Washburn, Becker, and United States Patent No. 5,718,229 ("Pesque"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reasons previously discussed during prosecution and the following:

The Office Action states the following:

The examiner has carefully read over the specification and would like to point the applicant's representative to paragraph 42 of the specification and accompanying Figure 4c. The paragraph states that the normalizing results in a "uniform distribution of the values of the movement parameter across the domain of the color characteristic legend." This is a narrower definition of "normalizing" and would overcome the current art being used. The examiner has performed a quick search and was unable to find another reference teaching this concept.

November 20, 2006 Office Action at page 7. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for specifically identifying allowable aspects of the application.

The Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 11 in conformance with the above statement from the Office Action. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite "normalizing said cumulative total to a domain of a color characteristic legend resulting in a uniform distribution of said values of said movement parameter across said domain of said color characteristic legend," while claim 11 has been amended to recite "normalizing said cumulative total to a domain of a color characteristic legend resulting in a uniform distribution of said values of said movement parameter across said domain of said color characteristic legend." Thus, for at least the reasons noted in the excerpt from the Office Action above, the pending claims should be in condition for allowance.

The Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 as set forth above to expedite prosecution of the present application towards issuance. The Applicants reserve the right, however, to pursue any of the previously pending claims (as the claims existed at any time during prosecution) in a continuation application.

In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding the pending claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. However, Applicants expressly reserve the right to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statement should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

In light of the above, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections of the pending claims and look forward to working with the Examiner to resolve any remaining issues in the application. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned

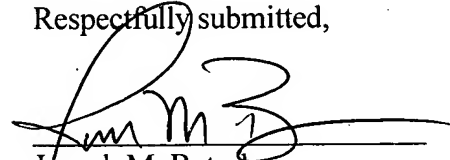
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representative. As noted above, no fee is believed due with respect to new claims 23 and 24 because these take the place of canceled claims 9 and 19. The Commissioner is authorized, however, to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 07-0845.

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Respectfully submitted,



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